

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1           1.     A support pillow comprising:  
2                 a cushion body having a medial region and two opposing arms that define a  
3 generally open well, with the cushion body having an outer periphery and an inner periphery  
4 adjacent the well, and wherein each of the arms terminates in an end;  
5                 a shell encompassing the cushion body; and  
6                 a fabric cover removably disposed over the shell such that the fabric cover  
7 conforms generally to the shape of the cushion body, wherein the fabric cover includes a  
8 seam that defines an opening to permit the cover to be placed over the shell, and wherein the  
9 fabric covering includes at least one fastener coupled to the seam to close the seam once the  
10 cover has been placed over the shell.

1           2.     A support pillow as in claim 1, wherein the fastener is selected from a  
2 group of fasteners consisting of zippers, ties, buttons, buckles, a hook and loop fastener  
3 material, snaps, reversible pockets and hooks.

1           3.     A support pillow as claimed in claim 2, wherein the seam is located  
2 across the medial region.

1           4.     A support pillow as in claim 2, wherein the seam is located along the  
2 outer periphery along the medial region.

1           5.     A support pillow as in claim 1, wherein the seam is located along the  
2 inner periphery along the medial region.

1           6.     A support pillow as in claim 1, wherein the seam is located along one  
2 of the ends.

1           7.     A support pillow as in claim 1, wherein the cover has two sides, with  
2 one of the sides having a characteristic that is different from the other side to make the cover  
3 reversible.

1           8.     A support pillow as in claim 1, further comprising a handle coupled to  
2 the cover.

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1                   9.     A support pillow as in claim 1, wherein the cushion body is  
2 constructed of a fill material that is compressed within the shell.

1                   10.    A support pillow as in claim 1, wherein the shell is constructed of a  
2 fabric.

1                   11.    A support pillow as in claim 1, further comprising at least one pocket  
2 coupled to the cover.

1                   12.    A support pillow as in claim 1, further comprising at least one  
2 connector coupled to the cover that is adapted to couple an article to the cover.

1                   13.    A support pillow as in claim 1, further comprising at least one appliqué  
2 coupled to the cover.

1                   14.    A support pillow as in claim 1, further comprising at least one  
2 character coupled to the cover.

1                   15.    A support pillow as in claim 1, further comprising a pair of ties  
2 coupled to the cover so as to be positioned at the ends of the arms, whereby the arms may be  
3 pulled together by tying the ties.

1                   16.    A support pillow as in claim 1, further comprising a harness coupled to  
2 the cover that extends across the open well to hold a baby to the pillow.

3  
4                   17.    A support pillow as in claim 1, further comprising a blanket coupled to  
5 the cover at the medial region.

6  
7                   18.    A support pillow as in claim 1, further comprising a padding layer that  
8 is positionable between the cover and the shell.

9  
10                  19.    A support pillow as in claim 1, further comprising an inflatable bladder  
11 that is positionable between the cover and the cushion body.

12  
13                  20.    A covering for a support pillow comprising a cushion body having a  
14 medial region and two opposing arms that define a generally open well, with the cushion

15 body having an outer periphery and an inner periphery adjacent the well, and wherein each of  
16 the arms terminates in an end, the covering comprising  
17 a fabric cover that is adapted to be removably disposed over the pillow such  
18 that the fabric cover conforms generally to the shape of the cushion body, wherein the fabric  
19 cover includes a seam that defines an opening to permit the cover to be placed over the  
20 cushion body, and wherein the fabric covering includes at least one fastener coupled to the  
21 seam to close the seam once the cover has been placed over the cushion body; and  
22 an attachment coupled to the cover, wherein the attachment is selected from a  
23 group consisting of handles, pockets, loops, appliques, characters, ties, blankets, bladders and  
24 padding layers.

1 21. A method for covering a support pillow, the method comprising:  
2 providing a support pillow that comprises a cushion body having a medial  
3 region and two opposing arms that define a generally open well, with the cushion body  
4 having an outer periphery and an inner periphery adjacent the well, and wherein each of the  
5 arms terminates in an end, and a shell encompassing the cushion body;  
6 providing a cover that comprises a curved tubular member having an open  
7 interior and a seam that provides access into the interior;  
8 placing the support pillow into the interior of the cover through the seam and  
9 manipulating the cover so that the cover covers the shell and generally conforms to the shape  
10 of the support pillow; and  
11 operating a fastener to close or cover the opening.

1 22. A method as in claim 21, further comprising operating the fastener to  
2 expose the opening, removing the cover from the support pillow, and placing another cover  
3 over the support pillow.

1 23. A method as in claim 21, wherein the fastener operating step comprises  
2 operating a fastener that is selected from a group of fasteners consisting of zippers, ties,  
3 buttons, buckles, a hook and loop fastener material, snaps, and hooks.

1 24. A method as in claim 21, further comprising attaching a peripheral  
2 item to the cover.

1 25, 24. A method as in claim 24, wherein the peripheral item comprises a toy,  
2 and wherein the attaching step comprise securing a strap to the toy that is attached to the  
3 cover.

1 26, 25. A method as in claim 21, further comprising forming the opening  
2 across the medial region.

1 27, 26. A method as in claim 21, further comprising forming the opening  
2 along the outer periphery or the inner periphery along the medial region.

1 28, 27. A method as in claim 21, further comprising forming the opening  
2 along one of the ends.